

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 155899

62

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NEA-10 IO-13 /116 R

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EA/RA:MISS ISOM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

JCS

S E C R E T STATE 155899

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE PX 49

REF: (A) STATE 119651; (B) CANBERRA 3402; (C) CINCPAC
262122Z JUN 73; (D) CINCPAC 110111Z JUL 73; (E) BANGKOK
10753; (F) CINCPAC 122321Z JUL 73; (G) STATE 149072;
(H) CANBERRA 4208; (I) WELLINGTON 1999; (J) LONDON 08798;
(K) BANGKOK 12006.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 155899

1. REFS (A) AND (B) STATED GOA INTENTIONS TO WITHDRAW FROM SEATO NAVAL EXERCISE PX 49 DUE TO (1) THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF THE EXERCISE IN VIEW OF THE GIVEN CHANGE OF SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, (2) THE PRESENCE OF GOA PM IN PRC AT THE TIME OF THE EXERCISE, (3) THE APPEARANCE THAT THE EXERCISE WOULD BE A RESULT OF THE SEATO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER. REF (C) QUOTED UK POSITION THAT IT REGRETFULLY COULD NOT ASSUME DIRECTORSHIP OF THE EXERCISE. REF (D) WAS A CINCPAC STATEMENT TO THE US MILADREP THAT THE USG DESIRED CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN PX 49 AND WOULD ACCEPT DIRECTORSHIP. REF (E) WAS THE BANGKOK EMBASSY REQUEST TO THE MILADREP NOT TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH CMPO UNTIL IT CONSULTED WITH STATE AND SET

FORTH ITS RECOMMENDATION THAT THE USG NOT PRESS FOR CONTINUATION OF PLANNING FOR PX 49 IN LIGHT OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS IT WOULD HAVE BOTH ON THE GOA/DFA STUDY OF SEATO AS WELL AS GOA FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN SEATO AND ON THE RELATED GNZ REVIEW OF MILITARY EXERCISES. REF (F) WAS THE MILADREP REPLY THAT HE WOULD WITHHOLD REF (D) FROM CMPO UNTIL ADVISED OTHERWISE. REF (G) WAS A STATE REQUEST TO AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN PARTICIPATING MEMBER NATIONS TO QUERY HOST GOVERNMENTS ON POSITION ON PX 49. REF (H) WAS GOA RESPONSE TO REF (G) THAT IT WAS NOT OPPOSED TO THE EXERCISE ITSELF BUT WITH ITS TIMING ONE MONTH AFTER THE SEATO COUNCIL MEETING. GOA SAID ONCE SEATO REVIEW COMPLETED TO SATISFACTION OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, PX 49 MIGHT WELL BE CONCEIVABLE FOR AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION. REF (I) WAS GNZ RESPONSE TO REF (G) REAFFIRMING GNZ WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE WHENEVER AND WHEREVER HELD BUT OPTING FOR A REASONABLE DELAY IF IT WOULD MEAN EVENTUAL GOA PARTICIPATION. REF (J) WAS UK RESPONSE TO REF (G) SUGGESTING A RESCHEDULING OF THIS EXERCISE IF THAT WOULD MAKE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION POSSIBLE. REF (K) EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO SEATO CMPO TO HAVE THE EXERCISE CONTINUE BUT INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DEFER IT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS IF PARTICIPANTS SO DESIRED. SAME REFERENCE, INDICATED RTG
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 155899

WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT POSTPONEMENT.

2. IN VIEW OF THE GOA WITHDRAWAL YET WILLINGNESS FOR POSSIBLE LATER PARTICIPATION, THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSTPONEMENT BY THE OTHER SEATO PARTICIPANTS, THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE AMONG THE SEATO MEMBERS, AND THE UPCOMING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WHICH IS EXPECTED TO ADDRESS THE MILITARY EXERCISE ISSUE, THE

PROPOSED OFFER OF US SPONSORSHIP OF SEATO EXERCISE PX 49
HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS
REQUESTED THAT YOU ADVISE THE CMPO THAT USG RECOMMENDS
POSTPONEMENT OF FURTHER PLANNING/PREPARATION FOR PX 49
UNTIL AFTER THE SEATO REVIEW AT THE SEPTEMBER COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS MEETING.

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